

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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46

ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 TRSE-00 SY-05 PM-04 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 COME-00 EB-07 /041 W

----- 073312

R 101032Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5373

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 10074

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, BE

SUBJECT: LAWS GOVERNING FIREARM IMPORTATION

REF: STATE 177789 AND 255875

1. BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS PROVIDED SUMMARY ANSWER TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTELS, PLUS TEXT OF LAW GOVERNING MANUFACTURE, TRADE AND CARRYING OF ARMS, AND MUNITIONS TRADE, DATING FROM 1933. TEXTS BEING POUCHED. INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF SUBSTANTIVE PORTION OF FONMIN'S COMMUNICATIONS FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN TEXT. IMPORTATION TO BELGIUM OF ARMS OF DEFENSE (BTN TARIFF CLASSIFICATION 9302), PORTABLE ARMS OF WAR (9303), AND HUNTING ARMS (9304) ARE SUBJECT TO LICENSING. THIS REQUIREMENT DOES NOT APPLY TO IMPORTS OF THIS TYPE ORIGINATING IN LUXEMBOURG OR THE NETHERLANDS.

IT IS EQUALLY WORTH NOTING THAT IMPORT LICENSES FOR THESE ARMS ARE NOT GRANTED BY THE OFFICE CENTRAL DES CONTINGENTS ET LICENCES (OCCL) EXCEPT AFTER CONCURRENCE OF THE BANC D'EPREUVES (A QUALITY TESTING ORGANIZATION), LOCATED IN LIEGE, WHICH HAS AMONG ITS RESPONSIBILITIES THE ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE OF THE MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF ARMS IN BELGIUM.

BEYOND THAT, AND BECAUSE EXPORTING COUNTRY AUTHORITIES REQUIRE SUCH A DOCUMENT, THE OCCL ISSUES ALSO, AT THE REQUEST OF THE BELGIAN IMPORTER, THE INTERNATIONAL IMPORT

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CERTIFICATE FORESEEN IN REGULATIONS ON STRATEGIC GOODS.

END TEXT.

3. THE MFA COMMUNICATION DOES NOT ADDRESS DIRECTLY THE  
QUESTIONS OF WHETHER WHOLESALE AND/OR RETAIL GUN DEALERS  
ARE REQUIRED TO RECORD AND REPORT SALES, NOR WHETHER  
INDIVIDUAL OWNERS ARE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN LEGAL DOCUMENTATION  
TO PURCHASE OR POSSESS THESE ITEMS. OUR READING OF THE  
1933 LAW INDICATES ONLY THAT PURCHASERS ARE REQUIRED TO  
REGISTER THEIR OWNERSHIP OF A WEAPON WITHIN TWO MONTHS  
AFTER PURCHASE. WE ARE SEEKING CLARIFICATION OR  
CONFIRMATION OF THIS INTERPRETATION. FIRESTONE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SMALL ARMS, AMMUNITION, TRADE LAW, IMPORT CONTROLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 75 STATE 177789  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Date:** 04 AUG 2003  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LAWS GOVERNING FIREARM IMPORTATION  
**TAGS:** MILI, ETRD, BE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006